

Today's News - Wednesday, April 13, 2016

- Moore considers whether Aravena's Pritzker win, Venice Biennale, and "holistic method" [never mind his "bizarre hairstyle (think desert roadkill)"] could be "a model for our cities. Not everyone engaged in providing shelter for the most needy is impressed."
- Volner considers the Pritzker choosing "civics over style" (and being "somewhat late to the party"): Once a maker of celebrity architects, the Pritzker now appears to be more interested in the making of good buildings."
- Apparently, "buyers are snapping up the last remaining projects" by Hadid - at her One Thousand Museum in Miami, they "may find themselves holding onto unexpectedly valuable assets."
- As if to prove the point, investors are advised to not fear "alternative architecture" - it is "innovative and exciting - and it should be for investors as well" (it's good for "global progress" and the economy, too).
- Pogrebin parses the responses from some 200 women architects re: "their experiences working in the profession" ["The design profession won't be integrated until the construction industry is, too. (Good luck with that!)"].
- Bozikovic cheers Gang's "aim to repair relations between police and residents - for a generation, architects have eschewed such social ambition and the responsibility that comes with it."
- Pedersen has a great Q&A with Berke re: succeeding Stern at Yale, the challenge of diversity, and the culture shifts being driven by students.
- With the release of her "Where Are the Women Architects?", Places re-posts Stratigakos's 2013 "Unforgetting Women Architects: From the Pritzker to Wikipedia."
- Hagberg Fisher offers a (most welcome) respite from such heavy subjects with a laugh-out-loud take on "life inside the head and heart of an (unpaid) architectural intern" on her first day (panda pants included).
- Karachi's architects are "disgruntled" with the state of architecture today: it's "just glamorous experiments. There is no serious architectural experiment in Pakistan presently. It is just gimmickry."
- Ban is tapped to design a luxury residential tower in downtown Vancouver that "will resonate with the growing global green architecture movement" (no images yet).
- Westbrook is (mostly) wow'd by Perth's new Elizabeth Quay that "combines post-punk populism with old-fashioned civic amenity - the grey hands of the bureaucrats have been unable to prevent the designers from extracting frequent moments of delight."
- Hawthorne hails the made-over Met Breuer: "File this one under the wisdom of letting an old dog do old tricks. Beyer Blinder Belle has been painstaking in its restraint."
- Unless preservationists come up with some new tricks for an old dog, Sydney's Brutalist Sirius housing complex will face the wrecking ball.
- Wainwright minces no words about the €1bn "custard-colored flop" - the revamp of Les Halles in Paris: Berger's gigantic umbrella "feels insipid, institutional and overwrought - sagging under the weight of expectation."
- Eyefuls of the 2016 Canadian National Urban Design Awards + the 2016 AIA/ALA Library Building Awards (both great presentations).
- Call for entries: Memorials for the Future: A competition to imagine flexible and interactive memorials for the 21st century.

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Alejandro Aravena: the shape of things to come: The Chilean architect's project to create affordable homes has won him the Pritzker Prize - and the job of directing this year's Venice Architecture Biennale. Could his holistic method provide a model for our cities? Not everyone engaged in providing shelter for the most needy is impressed... By Rowan Moore -- Elemental; David Sanderson- Observer (UK)

After Zaha, The Pritzker Chooses Civics Over Style: ...architecture's biggest prize has shifted away from the world she built: ...for all its power to command the media's attention, [it] has been somewhat late to the party: The temperature of architectural practice has been moving in the direction of greater political engagement for much of the last decade...Once a maker of celebrity architects, the Pritzker...now appears to be more interested in the making of good buildings. By Ian Volner -- Alejandro Aravena/Elemental- The New Republic

Developers See Increased Demand for Zaha Hadid Properties: Buyers are snapping up the last remaining projects by the late starchitect: ...One Thousand Museum [in Miami]...Buyers may find themselves holding onto unexpectedly valuable assets.- Mansion Global

Investors Shouldn't Be Afraid of Alternative Architecture: Architecture these days is innovative and exciting - and it should be for investors as well...Like any art form, [architects] are always pushing boundaries...Like any art form, it needs people to...invest in ideas that at first seem strange. Supporting alternative architecture encourages global progress, in art, sustainability, and economy.- NuWire Investor

Female Architects Speak Out on Sexism, Unequal Pay and More: We asked women to share their experiences working in the profession, and some 200 replied: "The design profession won't be integrated until the construction industry is, too. (Good luck with that!)." By Robin Pogrebin- New York Times

Chicago architect aims to repair relations between police, residents: "And if you can remake space, you can change a culture." That sort of statement has been too rare; for a generation, architects have eschewed such social ambition and the responsibility that comes with it. By Alex Bozikovic -- Jeanne Gang/Studio Gang- Globe and Mail (Canada)

Q&A: Deborah Berke on succeeding Robert A.M. Stern at Yale...the challenge of diversity, and the culture shifts being driven by students..."Education about the built environment that starts early and is repeated often, is the key to increasing architecture's diversity...Architects need to do a better job making people aware of the forces shaping their built environment." By Martin C. Pedersen -- Deborah Berke Partners- Common Edge

Unforgetting Women Architects: From the Pritzker to Wikipedia: It's time to write women architects back into history. By Despina Stratigakos (2013)- Places Journal

The Interior Monologue of an Architectural Intern on Her First Day: Life inside the head and heart of an (unpaid) architectural intern, for a renowned architect: Oh my god it's going to be amazing when I get the Pritzker. I wonder if they'll interview me about my first day at the office. They'll be like "What do you remember most?" and I'll be like "Talk to me about panda pants." By Eva Hagberg Fisher- Common Edge

Enter the architect: Are today's architects doing substantial experiments in building houses? ...the purpose...is less about building a home...leaving Karachi's architects disgruntled. "Today's architecture is just glamorous experiments...There is no serious architectural experiment in Pakistan presently. It is just gimmickry." -- Mukhtar Husain; Shahid Abdulla; Habib Fida Ali-The News on Sunday (Pakistan)

Japanese architect known for structures of renewable materials to design new Coal Harbour tower: ...Shigeru Ban has been contracted to design a luxury residential tower in downtown Vancouver's Coal Harbour neighbourhood. No design or site location has been made public at this time...it will resonate with the growing global green architecture movement. - Vancity Buzz (Vancouver, Canada)

New order: Elizabeth Quay, Perth: ARM Architecture and Taylor Cullinan combine post-punk populism with old-

fashioned civic amenity to redefine Perth's urban identity: Walking through the now-completed hard landscape...is a revelation...I still have a few misgivings...But the grey hands of the bureaucrats have been unable to prevent the designers from extracting frequent moments of delight... By Nigel Westbrook -- Ashton Raggatt McDougall; Richard Weller; CODA Studio; Matthews & Scavalli Architects; Iredale Pederson Hook [images]- ArchitectureAU (Australia)

The restored Met Breuer (formerly the Whitney Museum) has a new energy as well as a lived-in look: File this one under the wisdom of letting an old dog do old tricks...the Metropolitan Museum of Art has figured out how and where to leave well enough alone...Beyer Blinder Belle has been painstaking in its restraint. By Christopher Hawthorne [images]- Los Angeles Times

Fans of brutalist architecture push to conserve Sirius building: A mid-century style...the architectural genre that people love to hate...the for-and-against arguments are focused on a pile of concrete boxes in Sydney's The Rocks...currently endorsed for demolition...In light of this backgrounding in brutalism's positive points, and its importance as an historic architectural idiom, what should happen with the Sirius apartments... -- Tao Gofers (1979); Graeme Gunn [images]- Domain (Australia)

A custard-coloured flop: the €1bn revamp of Les Halles in Paris: ...the Parisian shopping mall has been waiting for a facelift for decades but Patrick Berger's 7,000 tonne umbrella of steel and glass feels insipid, institutional and overwrought...sagging under the weight of expectation. By Oliver Wainwright [images]- Guardian (UK)

Canadian National Urban Design Awards - 2016 Recipients -- PLANT Architect/Perkins+Will Canada/Hoerr Schaudt Landscape Architecture/Adrian Blackwell Urban Projects; SHAPE Architecture; Provencher_Roy; Kava; Lateral Office/CS Design; space2place design; etc. [images]- Royal Architectural Institute of Canada (RAIC) / Canadian Institute of Planners / Canadian Society of Landscape Architects

Seven Recipients for the 2016 AIA/ALA Library Building Awards: ...designs of these community spaces have changed to reflect the needs of the surrounding residence... -- will bruder+PARTNERS/O2 Architects; Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM); VJAA; Gould Evans; The Miller Hull Partnership; Snøhetta/Zeidler Partnership Architects; Bohlin Cywinski Jackson [images]- American Institute of Architects (AIA) / American Library Association (ALA)

Call for entries: Memorials for the Future: A competition to imagine flexible and interactive memorials for the 21st century; pre-registration (not required): April 18; deadline: May 4- Van Alen Institute / U.S. National Park Service / National Capital Planning Commission

ANN feature: Zaha. A special issue: I didn't know Zaha Hadid. We met once - in Bartlesville, Oklahoma, of all places. My encounter with her left an indelible impression. By Kristen Richards- ArchNewsNow.com

Venice Biennale Curator Series: Britain: Q&A with Shumi Bose, Jack Self and Finn Williams about this year's British Pavilion..."Home Economics," a reflection on the home as the contemporary frontline of British architecture. By Robert Martin

CO-AP: Camperdown Childcare Center, Sydney, Australia: ...located down an unassuming back street...within a former warehouse, the center exemplifies the delight that can be found from adapting older structures for new programs and purposes. [images]- ArcSpace

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